

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for manufacturing a composite article comprising at least one part fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic material and combinations thereof, each part
5 having at least one edge region, said process comprising:
 - (a) placing said part into a mold;
 - (b) closing said mold and concurrently deforming at least a portion of the edge region of at least one part thus forming a deformed edge region selected from at least one of,
10 (i) at least one aligned edge region comprising at least two edge portions that are aligned side-by-side, and
(ii) at least one abutting edge region comprising two edge regions abutting one over the other; and
 - (c) introducing plastic into said mold and over said deformed
15 edge region, thereby fixedly attaching the edge regions of said deformed edge region together and forming said composite article.
2. The process of Claim 1 wherein said abutting edge region is
20 formed by stamping said edge regions together.
3. The process of Claim 2 wherein the stamping of said edge regions results in the formation of aligned beads in said abutting edge region.
25
4. The process of Claim 3 wherein said aligned beads are encased in the plastic material molded over said deformed edge region.
5. The process of Claim 1 wherein each edge region of said
30 part has at least one aperture having edges, at least two of said apertures being aligned and together forming an aligned aperture, said abutting edge

region having at least one aligned aperture, at least a portion of the edges of one aperture of said aligned aperture being deformed through the other aperture of said aligned aperture when said mold is closed.

5 6. The process of Claim 5 wherein the plastic molded over said deformed edge region passes through at least one of said aligned apertures, the edges of said aligned aperture being embedded in the plastic material passing there-through.

10 7. The process of Claim 1 wherein each edge region comprises at least one tab, at least one of said tabs of one edge region being deformed such that it is aligned side-by-side with at least one of the tabs of another edge region, thereby forming said aligned edge region.

15 8. The process of Claim 7 wherein the aligned tabs are interlinked with each other.

 9. The process of Claim 7 wherein said aligned tabs are encased in the plastic material molded over said deformed edge region.

20